

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Presently Amended) A process for decontaminating a contaminated surface, comprising the steps of:

providing a microemulsion composition having a microemulsion, a solid source of peroxy carboxylic acid dissolved suspended in the microemulsion and a germinant in combination with the solid peroxy carboxylic acid within the microemulsion; and,

applying the microemulsion composition to the contaminated surface effective for decontamination thereof.

17. (Original) The process of claim 16, wherein the microemulsion composition comprises a microemulsion, peracetyl borate and dipicolinic acid.

18. (Original) The process of claim 16, wherein the microemulsion composition comprises a surfactant selected from the group consisting of didecyl methylamine oxide, dimethyl decylamine oxide, and combinations thereof.

19-20. (Cancelled)

21. (New) The process of claim 16, wherein the peroxy carboxylic acid comprises peracetic acid.
22. (New) The process of claim 21, wherein the peracetic acid comprises peracetyl borate.
23. (New) The process of claim 16, wherein the peroxy carboxylic acid is present in an amount of from about 0.03 g/mL to about 0.20 g/mL.
24. (New) The process of claim 23, wherein the peroxy carboxylic acid is present in an amount of from about 0.10 g/mL to about 0.15 g/mL.
25. (New) The process of claim 16, wherein the germinant is selected from the group consisting of dipicolinic acid, alanine, asparagine, glucose, fructose, potassium chloride, and combinations thereof.
26. (New) The process of claim 25, wherein the germinant comprises dipicolinic acid.
27. (New) The process of claim 26, wherein the dipicolinic acid is present in an amount of from about 0.03 molar amount to about 0.30 molar amount.
28. (New) The process of claim 27, wherein the dipicolinic acid is present in an amount of from about 0.15 molar amount to about 0.25 molar amount.

29. (New) The process of claim 16, further comprising a pH of the composition ranging from about 7.0 to about 10.0.
30. (New) The process of claim 16, wherein the microemulsion is selected from the group consisting of didecyl methylamine oxide, dimethyl decylamine oxide, and combinations thereof;
the solid source of peroxy carboxylic acid comprises peracetyl borate; and,
the germinant comprises dipicolonic acid effective for spore germination in combination with the peracetyl borate within the microemulsion.